GC 9-0483

Approved For Release 2007/02/08 : CIA-RDP91-00965R000200050075-2

16 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Richard Arens, Staff Director, House Committee on Un-American Activities

25X1A

[redacted]

3. Following the session Mr. Arens asked me to have a cup of coffee and a chat with him. He said he thought I was a "good fellow". (My bona fides had apparently been established by the fact that I was an old friend of the Committee Counsel, Frank Tavenner, whom I had known when we were both practicing law in Virginia before the war.)

4. Mr. Arens said he thought I should know that the Agency relations with Congress were "lousy". He said "all up and down the halls" it was the common opinion that we did not know what

Approved For Release 2007/02/08 : CIA-RDP91-00965R000200050075-2

Approved For Release 2007/02/08 : CIA-RDP91-00965R000200050075-2
we were doing, that we were spending a lot of money, and that we were not keeping Congress properly informed. Mr. Arens contrasted our public relations with those of the Bureau, and said it would be very helpful to us if we could get a lot of articles in magazines like the Reader's Digest about our operations. He said every time you pick up the paper you see that a Bureau agent has done this or J. Edgar Hoover has done that. He couldn't understand why the Agency did not learn to make public its own operations in the same way. Mr. Arens went on to remark that he often heard it said that CIA was supporting the Russian Intelligence Service by paying high prices for a lot of fabricated material which the Russians were feeding us. Furthermore, said Mr. Arens, the Agency apparently had "dropped the ball" in a number of critical situations and had provided no advance warning of the attack on South Korea, the Hungarian uprising or the demonstrations against Vice President Nixon in South America. Finally, said Mr. Arens, the Agency is held in low repute not only by members of Congress but by other government agencies, particularly the Bureau and the Immigration Service.

5. I said I had never had any experience with public relations or Congressional liaison, but agreed that they were important to any government agency. I asked Mr. Arens if he could be any more precise in discussing what he thought the trouble was. Mr. Arens spoke very highly of Walter Pforzheimer but was sorry he hadn't seen much of him recently. He added that he thought John Warner was a "very good fellow" also. Mr. Arens further expressed high regard for the Director. He said the trouble was not with any of the personalities involved in our Congressional liaison, but rather with Agency policy of simply not keeping other branches of the government informed as to what we were doing.

6. I refrained from trying to answer or challenge Mr. Arens' accusations because I suspected he was trying either to develop me as a private source of information about Agency activity, or failing this, provoke me into saying something that could be used against the Agency.

[redacted]

25X1A

Chief, SR Division

Distribution:
0 - DCI via DD/P
1 - General Counsel
1 - Legislative Counsel

Approved For Release 2007/02/08 : CIA-RDP91-00965R000200050075-2

☐ UNCLASSIFIED ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ SECRET

Approved For Release 2007/02/08 : CIA-RDP91-00965R000200050075-2

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM: Chief, SR Division

NO.

DATE 16 Mar 59

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE RECEIVED	DATE FORWARDED	OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
1. Mr. John Warner Legislative Counsel	221 Admin			25X1
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				

Approved For Release 2007/02/08 : CIA-RDP91-00965R000200050075-2

FORM 1 DEC 56 610 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☐ INTERNAL USE ONLY ☐ UNCLASSIFIED

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1958 O - 476731